

684.003307 (684.3307)

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: Fred L. Braun
TADAYUKI TSUDA, ET AL.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2852
Application No.: 09/988,153)	
	:	
Filed: November 19, 2001)	
	:	
For: PROCESS CARTRIDGE AND)	February 9, 2004
IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS :		(Monday)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the listed documents is also enclosed. These documents were recently cited during the prosecution of a Japanese counterpart application in an Office Action dated October 21, 2002. The concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language documents is found in the attached English Abstracts thereof and in the following translation of an excerpt from the Japanese Examiner's comments in the Office Action:

02/12/2004 SMINASS1 00000069 09988153

01 FC:1806

180.00 DP

“Claims 1-4:
(References 1-4)

Reference 1 discloses an electrophotographic image forming apparatus of a process cartridge type wherein the process cartridge is detachably mountable to the image forming apparatus, and wherein the photosensitive member driving system and the developer feeding system are independent from each other (see particularly Reference 1, page 4, left column, lines 14-40).

The process cartridge disclosed in Reference 1 does not contain an electrophotographic photosensitive member. However, inclusion of the electrophotographic photosensitive member in the process cartridge is well-known prior to the filing date of this application, as disclosed in Reference 2 and Reference 3, for example.

Reference 4 discloses that when the process cartridge is positioned by engagement between the cartridge positioning portion and the main assembly positioning portion, a consideration is made with respect to the relation between the rotational direction of the rotatable member and the direction of the rotational moment, and the cartridge positioning portion and the main assembly positioning portion. Incorporation of this in the invention disclosed in Reference 1 is obvious. The specific positions of the cartridge positioning portion and the main assembly positioning portion are matter of design when the relation is taken into account.”

In addition, U.S. Patent Application No. 2000/0012546 and U.S. Patent No. 6,512,903, which are enclosed, correspond to Japanese Document No. 2000-235301, and U.S. Patent No. 4,873,549, which is also enclosed, corresponds to Japanese Document No. 63-214765.

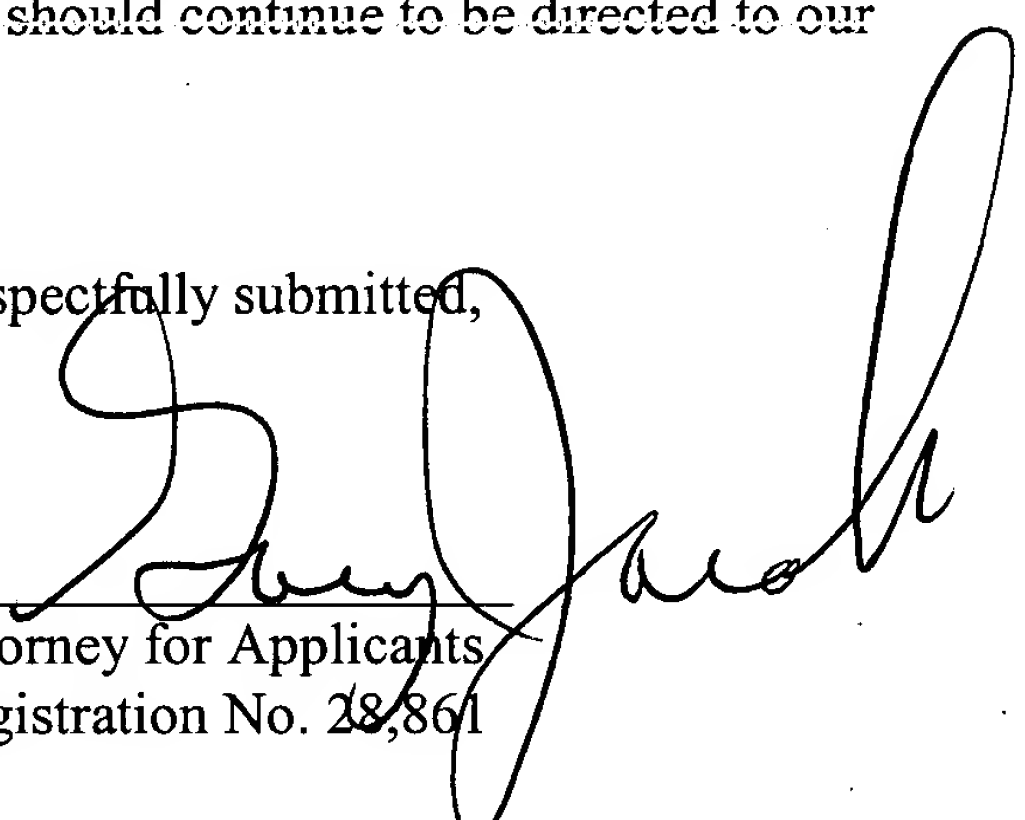
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Enclosed is a check for the required fee of \$180.00 to cover the Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2).

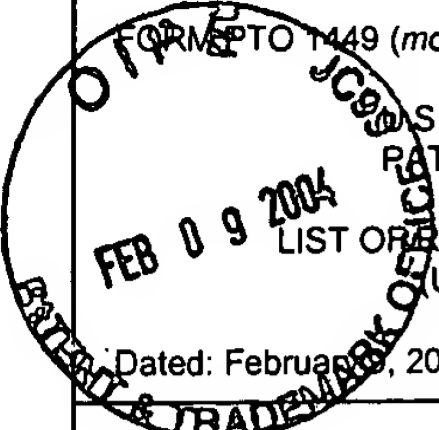
Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) Dated: February 9, 2004	ATTY DOCKET NO. 00684.003307	APPLICATION NO. 09/988,153
	APPLICANT TADAYUKI TSUDA, et al.	
	FILING DATE November 19, 2001	GROUP 2835

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		2002/0012546	1/31/02	CHANDAI	399	106	
		6,512,903	1/8/03	CHADANI	399	106	
		4,873,549	10/10/89	TADA, ET AL.	355	206	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		5-080651	4/2/93	JAPAN			Abstract
		63-214765	9/7/88	JAPAN			Abstract
		2000-235301	8/29/00	JAPAN			Abstract
		9-311610	12/2/97	JAPAN			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.